#### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of the Application of Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity Authorizing it to Construct, Own, Operate, Control, Manage, and Maintain a High Voltage, Direct Current Transmission Line and an Associated Converter Station Providing an interconnection on the Maywood-Montgomery 345 kV Transmission Line

Case No. EA-2014-0207

#### NOTICE OF GRAIN BELT EXPRESS CLEAN LINE LLC

Applicant Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC hereby gives notice that it commenced an open solicitation process on January 21, 2015 for capacity on the proposed Grain Belt Express Clean Line transmission project. <u>See</u> Exhibit 1.

This notice is given in response to requests by the Commission to keep it apprised of project milestones and related developments.

/s/ Karl Zobrist Karl Zobrist Lisa A. Gilbreath Dentons US LLP 4520 Main Street, Suite 1100 Kansas City, Missouri 64111 (816) 460-2400 (816) 531-7545 (Fax) karl.zobrist@dentons.com lisa.gilbreath@dentons.com Cary J. Kottler General Counsel Erin Szalkowski Corporate Counsel Clean Line Energy Partners LLC 1001 McKinney Street, Suite 700 Houston, TX 77002 (832) 319-6320 ckottler@cleanlineenergy.com eszalkowski@cleanlineenergy.com

## ATTORNEYS FOR GRAIN BELT EXPRESS CLEAN LINE LLC

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was served upon all parties of record by email or U.S. mail, postage prepaid, this 29th day of January 2015.

/s/ Karl Zobrist Attorney for Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC



MEDIA CONTACT Sarah Bray 832.319.6340 office 832.226.2116 coll

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#### CLEAN LINE ENERGY ISSUES NOTICE OF OPEN SOLICITATION FOR GRAIN BELT EXPRESS PROCESS BEGINS TO ALLOCATE TRANSMISSION LINE CAPACITY TO CUSTOMERS

HOUSTON (January 21, 2015) – Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC (Clean Line) commenced an open solicitation process today to allocate capacity on its Grain Belt Express Clean Line transmission project. Clean Line intends to allocate up to 100% of the project's capacity to customers through a capacity allocation process that will be conducted pursuant to the FERC Policy Statement issued on January 17, 2013: Allocation of Capacity on New Merchant Transmission Projects and New Cost-Based, Participant-Funded Transmission Projects. On May 8, 2014, FERC issued an order granting Clean Line negotiated rate authority for the Grain Belt Express Clean Line under this Policy Statement.

The Grain Belt Express Clean Line is a 750-mile direct current transmission line that will have the capacity to deliver power from western Kansas to Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and states farther east. The Grain Belt Express Clean Line will have a delivery converter station located near the Maywood 345 kV substation in Missouri, where the project will have the capacity to deliver up to 500 MW of power. The project will also have a delivery converter station located in Clark County, Illinois, allowing the project to deliver approximately 3,500 MW at the Sullivan Substation near the Illinois-Indiana border. The project is currently under development and, based on current estimates, is expected to be energized in 2019.

"We are excited to begin the open solicitation process to allocate capacity to customers. This marks an important milestone towards building transmission infrastructure in Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana," said Michael Skelly, President of Clean Line Energy. "We were encouraged by the strong participation in our Plains & Eastern Clean Line open solicitation process last year, and we hope to see strong commercial interest in the Grain Belt Express Clean Line project as well."

Clean Line has engaged landowners, community leaders, environmental organizations and other stakeholder groups throughout the development process. The Grain Belt Express Clean Line project development team has met with approximately 6,000 stakeholders since the inception of the project to provide project information, answer questions and gather data on routing options. Clean Line is a public utility in Kansas and Indiana and obtained a line siting certificate in 2013 from the Kansas Corporation Commission for the 370-mile Kansas section of the line. Clean Line has an application pending with the Missouri Public Service Commission for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity and expects to file for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity with the Illinois Commerce Commission this year.

Interested parties can learn more about the Grain Belt Express Clean Line open solicitation process and how to participate by visiting www.GrainBeltExpressCleanLine.com.

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**About Clean Line Energy Partners:** Clean Line's mission is to connect abundant, renewable energy resources to areas that have a high demand for clean, reliable energy. Clean Line is developing a series





of transmission projects to move renewable energy to market. For more information, please visit www.CleanLineEnergy.com.

# GRAIN BELT EXPRESS

#### **Grain Belt Express Clean Line Transmission Project**

#### Notice of Open Solicitation for Transmission Service

Starting on January 21, 2015, Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC ("Grain Belt") will commence an open solicitation process for capacity on the proposed Grain Belt Express Clean Line transmission project (the "Project"). Grain Belt may conduct subsequent open solicitation processes for the Project in the future. Grain Belt intends to allocate up to 100% of the Project's capacity to customers through an open and transparent solicitation and capacity allocation process. This process will be conducted pursuant to the FERC Policy Statement issued on January 17, 2013, Allocation of Capacity on New Merchant Transmission Projects and New Cost-Based, Participant-Funded Transmission Projects, 142 FERC ¶ 61,038. On May 8, 2014, FERC issued an order conditionally authorizing Grain Belt negotiated rate authority under this Policy Statement.

The Project is a proposed approximately 750-mile, multi-terminal ±600 kV high-voltage, direct current (HVDC) transmission line and associated facilities. The Project will originate near the Spearville 345-kV substation in Ford County, Kansas, and will terminate near the Sullivan 765-kV substation in Sullivan County, Indiana, where it will be capable of delivering 3,500 MW of power. There is also an intermediate converter station located near the Maywood 345-kV substation in Missouri, where the Project will have the capacity to deliver up to 500 MW of power. The associated facilities will include transmission facilities to connect the converter stations to the existing transmission grid and a collector system comprised of alternating current transmission lines to connect generators to the western terminus of the line. Grain Belt expects to commence construction of the Project as early as 2017 and place the Project in service in Project 2019. Additional information about the is available at www.grainbeltexpresscleanline.com.

Interested parties should contact Alexandra Landon at the contact information set forth below in order to participate in the open solicitation process.

Alexandra Landon Capacity@CleanLineEnergy.com c/o Clean Line Energy Partners LLC 1001 McKinney Street, Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77002 832.319.6364

Participants will have the opportunity to receive electronic updates regarding the Project at a password-protected website administered by Grain Belt. Further information regarding the Project will be available to participants on this website, and Grain Belt will post answers to all questions posed by participants on this website. Participants may also request preliminary meetings to discuss transmission service request considerations. Additionally, Grain Belt will host a web conference on February 10, 2015, at which participants will have an opportunity to ask questions. Transmission service requests will be due to Capacity@CleanLineEnergy.com by March 9, 2015. Participants are not required to submit a transmission service request.

Grain Belt will use the following customer selection criteria as initial screening factors in order for participants to be considered for the ranking and negotiation process: (1) first mover status; (2) firm transmission service reservation for at least 5 years; (3) firm transmission service reservation for at least 5 years.

Participants that satisfy the selection criteria will then be ranked according to the following ranking criteria for purposes of phasing negotiations: (1) level of creditworthiness; (2) early commitment in the Project's development cycle; (3) Project risk-sharing through phased deposits or similar financial commitments during the Project's development cycle; (4) ability to assist with the Project's development needs; (5) longer term of service; (6) larger capacity reservation; (7) ability to access Project converter stations; (8) completion of generation development milestones or evidence of need for Project capacity (as appropriate); (9) commercial operation date for generation or timing of transmission service commencement date; and (10) material price terms. There will be time-defined, phased negotiation windows, with the first phase beginning on or around March 13, 2015.